

Scientific Note

First Record of a Dryopid (Coleoptera: Dryopidae) from Washington and Notes on the Distribution of the Family in the Northwestern United States

Beginning in early 1986 we began an extensive survey of certain groups of aquatic Coleoptera and Hemiptera occurring in the Pacific Northwest. Among the more interesting records are the first collection of a dryopid beetle, *Helichus striatus* LeConte, from Washington and also the finding of it in northern Idaho. Since recordings of dryopid beetles from the northwestern United States are rare and scattered, we felt this an opportune time to present those records with which we are familiar.

Hatch (1965, *The beetles of the Pacific Northwest, Part IV*, Univ. Wash. Press) recorded *Helichus striatus* from southwestern British Columbia, southeastern Idaho, and Oregon. Brown (1976, USEPA, Water Pollution Control Research Series 18050 ELD04/72) recorded *H. striatus striatus* as occurring across the northern United States and southern Canada, and *H. striatus foveatus* LeConte as occurring along the west coast of the United States north into British Columbia. Again, Brown (1983, *A catalog of the Coleoptera of America north of Mexico*, USDA Agr. Hdbk. 529-49) records both *H. striatus striatus* and *H. striatus foveatus* from British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon. However, Brown had not seen specimens from Washington or Idaho when compiling these reports. It appears that most of the records concerning the distribution of *Helichus* in the northwestern United States were based on what might occur in the region as opposed to what had been collected.

In Washington, specimens of *Helichus striatus striatus* were collected at Douglas County, East Foster Creek, ca. 13 km SE of Bridgeport (R26E T28N Sec. 3), at an elevation of 570 m on 31 May 1988. East Foster Creek is perennial for a length of ca. 20 km and intermittent for another 20-30 km. The stream is fed by a series of springs and run-off, arising mainly from the area of Foster Coulee. The creek empties into the Columbia River near Bridgeport. The steppe region vegetation which dominates the area was classified as an *Artemisia tridentata* Nutt./*Festuca idahoensis* Elm. association (Daubenmire, 1970, *Steppe vegetation of Washington*, Wash. Agric. Exp. Stn. Tech. Bull. 62). At the collecting site the stream was ca. 1-2 m wide with areas of short riffles and numerous, larger pools. Water flow, for this time of year, was unusually slow due to persistent drought conditions over the past year. *Helichus striatus* was collected only from areas along the stream bank where current had undercut the shoreline leaving an overhang (ca. 20-40 cm deep) of soil and vegetation. Kicking-up into this overhang released the beetles which were then carried by the current into a net held downstream. No dryopids were taken from the riffle areas. Thirty-four adult specimens were collected from an overhang area ca. 15 m long. Areas within 300 m up or down stream were mostly small pools in which no dryopids were found. In addition to *H. striatus*, 33 specimens of *Agabus seriatus* Say (Coleoptera: Dytiscidae) were collected at the overhang site.

In addition to the Washington record we have taken *Helichus striatus* from two

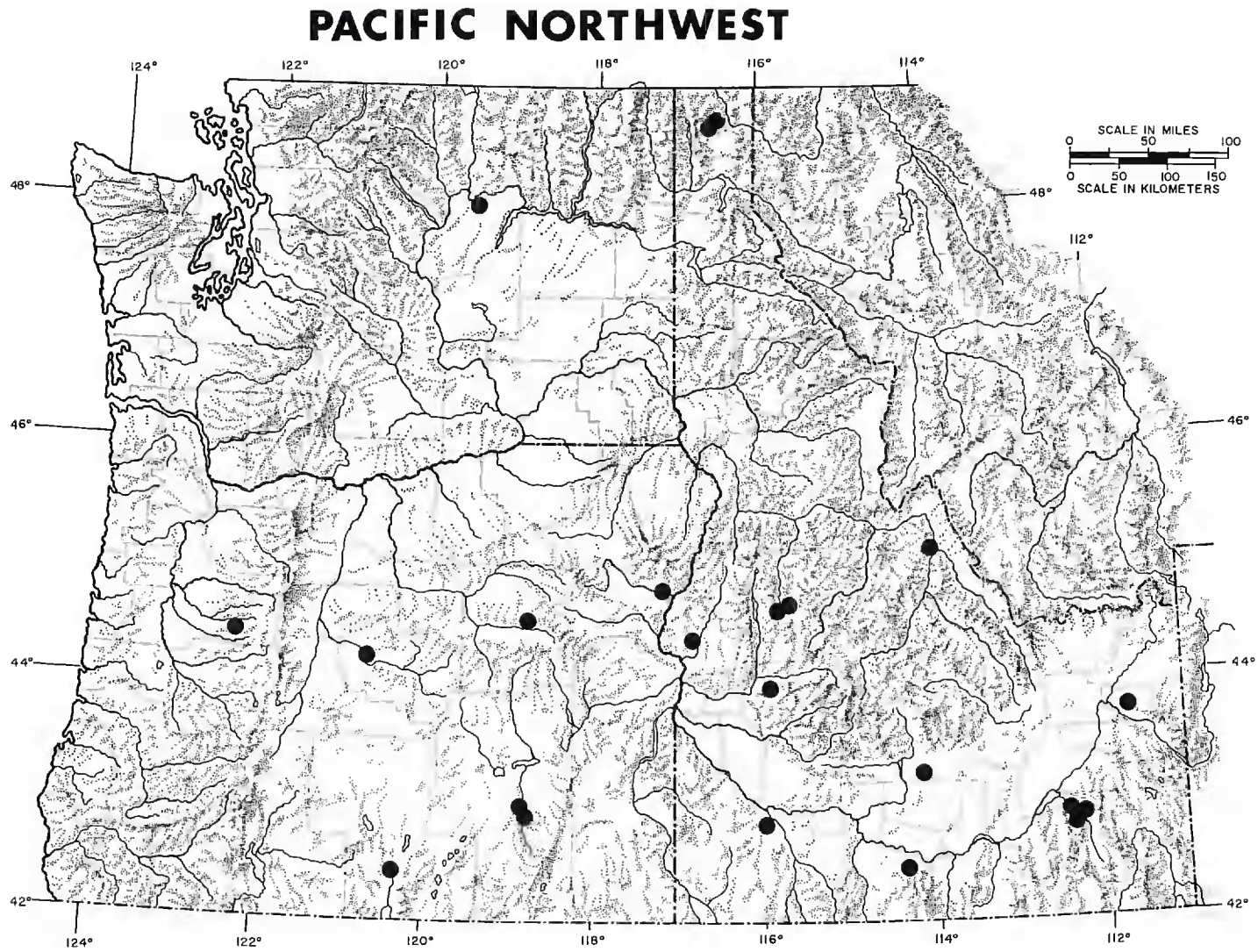


Figure 1. Collection sites of *Helichus striatus* in the northwestern United States. A total of 80 specimens were examined.

locations, 4 mi apart, along Deep Creek in Boundary Co., Idaho. And, although not a record for the state, this find represents a significant northern extension of the range of the beetle within Idaho. At the Deep Creek locations, the beetles were collected from inundated grasses along the shore.

The distribution of *Helichus striatus* in the northwestern United States is presented in Figure 1. Specimens examined are from the following counties: IDAHO: Bannock, Blaine, Boise, Boundary, Lemhi, Madison, Owyhee, Twin Falls, Valley, and Washington; OREGON: Baker, Crook, Grant, Harney, Lake, and Linn; WASHINGTON: Douglas.

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